

TAMAR NRM Inc.



Tamar NRM

2018-2019 Annual Report

Supported by:



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1. About Tamar NRM

Tamar NRM believes in making a positive difference to the environment and community of the Tamar Region. We do this by delivering community-based activities and projects such as grassroots workshops and field days, focusing on sustainable agriculture, sustainable living and the natural environment.

Starting in 1998 and based in the Tamar region of northern Tasmania, our community encompasses a wide range of representatives both rural and urban, with varied backgrounds in Landcare, education, business and Local and State Government. We developed the Tamar Region Natural Resource Management Strategy in 1999 updating the document in 2001, 2007, 2012 and 2018.

With the support and encouragement of City of Launceston, West Tamar and George Town municipalities, we have played a significant role in promoting and managing a wide range of activities aimed at ensuring the Tamar Region is an attractive and prosperous place to live and work, based on a healthy environment.

Since 2000 we have successfully attracted over \$7M of funding through a variety of projects partnering for some with community Landcare groups and organisations within the natural resource management sector.

Our focus areas are:

- Biodiversity;
- Weeds;
- Sustainable Agriculture;
- Sustainable Living; and
- Feral Cats.

Our niche in the natural resource management sector is:

- On-ground community activities/events;
- Community project management, monitoring and evaluation;
- Sharing community know-how for the benefit of all;
- Community education, awareness and training; and
- Making community connections.

Our values are:

1. Respect and Value - We respect nature and natural processes.
2. Be Ethical - We will be fair and open in our business dealings and give fair value in order to have mutually beneficial relationships with our partners, employees and volunteers.
3. Consider the Future - We have a duty of care to those around us, as well as to future generations.
4. Be Open and Learn - Keep an open mind about new ways of thinking and doing. We listen to and learn from all.
5. Share - We seek ways for the whole community to share in the responsibility of maintaining and valuing biodiversity.

2. Management Committee

Roger Tyshing, President



Roger started his own Tree Surgery business in the Dandenong Ranges in 1984 and in 1987 bought a 240 hectare beef and sheep farm at Liena, Tasmania. Having sold the property in 2000, he moved to Exeter then Launceston. He has worked in agricultural extension, agripolitics, training and workforce development. He is currently working as the Farm Manager at Hagley Farm School and is a Director of the Migrant Resource Centre.

Anna Povey, Vice President



Anna Povey works for the Tasmanian Land Conservancy, supporting landowners who have conservation covenants. Anna has a broad environmental knowledge, and loves to share this with others. Nature education, bush management, ecology, revegetation, native plant identification and propagation are her specialties. Anna established and ran Bushways Environmental Services Tasmania with Helen Morgan. Anna was the first Understorey Network Co-ordinator and has been a Bushcare Support Officer with Greening Australia.

Barry Pickett



Barry is the Natural Environment Manager for City of Launceston Council. Barry worked for the ANZ Bank, Ansett Australia and Comalco, before moving to the Northwest Coast in 1996. Barry spent 10 years as the President of the Devonport Aquatic Club where he lobbied local, state and federal government for the funding towards the Devonport Indoor Aquatic Centre. Barry spent many years as the Manager of CSR Gyprock and Fibre Cement on the north coast before deciding to return back home to Launceston. He has been with council for over 3 years.

Ben Hooper

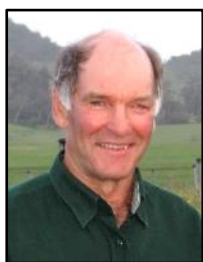


Ben is a third generation farmer on a property at Beaconsfield, focused on lamb production and maximising grazing efficiency. He holds a Masters of Business Administration - Agricultural Innovation and a Graduate Certificate in Management as well as an Agribusiness and an Advanced Diploma of Farm Business Management. Ben is the current Chair of the Tamar Valley Branch of TFGA and offers tutor support to Exeter High School. His previous industry roles include:

- Board Selection Committee for Meat and Livestock Australia
- Member and Chair of TFGA Meat Council
- State Representative to the Sheepmeat Council of Australia

Ben passionately believes in education and self-improvement for everyone in the community especially in areas of NRM and agriculture

Brian Baxter



Brian is a 4th generation farmer on "Greenside" at Pipers River with dry land cropping, beef, fat lambs, farm forestry and extensive Landcare projects as well as starting up a business as a fence contractor and vineyard construction. Brian has been involved with East Tamar Landcare since its inception in 1992, and was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2017 for his service to natural resource management. This adds to his George Town Australia Day Citizen of the year award in 2008 for service to the community and Landcare and Primary Producer Landcare Award in 2009.

Brigid Morrison



Brigid has undertaken roles as an: industry investigator for adaptive water resources management with Sense-T, environmental policy advisor and has four year experience as an associate Lecturer at UTAS. She holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.Sc.Hons), Plant Biology and Geography (aquaculture minor) and worked as a research assistant at the Centre for Phytophthora Science and Management at Murdoch University. Her current role with the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association brings added experience within the agricultural sector in Tasmania.

David Richardson



David Richardson is the Team Leader of Works and Infrastructure at George Town Council. David is a qualified horticulturist & arborist, which supports his affiliation with NRM throughout his career. He has served as a committee member on Northern Regional Weed Management Group and represented Break O Day and West Tamar Council's as a NRM committee member. He has provided support and undertaken a number of NRM activities and initiatives, in particularly in his role as Parks Supervisor at West Tamar Council. David was also involved in the implementation and review of current 'best practice for maintenance of State Roads roadside assets' including vegetation control, in his role for Dept. of State Growth. David is a true advocate for Tamar NRM particularly in their effective management of nature's resources.

Greg Unwin



Greg is a forest ecologist and Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania in Launceston. His teaching subjects include Agroforestry, Forest Ecosystems and Ecology and Management. Research interests centre on the dynamics of tropical and temperate forest ecosystems and the ecophysiological processes which sustain forest diversity and productivity.

James Ireland



James is a town planner at West Tamar Council. Since completing a Bachelor of Urban Planning and Development at the University of Melbourne he has worked in local government and private consultancy in Melbourne and London and now Tasmania. James moved to the West Tamar region aged six and, after 13 years away, returned in 2012. James has also been involved in the wine industry, still occasionally helping out at Delamere Vineyards in Pipers River and with the Harvest Market, helping his sister sell lilies there.

John Thorp



John is a trained agricultural scientist and extension officer having worked at all levels from the field to highest levels of government. He is a participant in community groups and volunteers his time to local causes. He recently retired from his business, John Thorp Australia, which undertook resource management and agricultural projects for government and private enterprise. He has fulfilled the role of National Weeds Management Facilitator and was Project Manager for the implementation of the National Weeds Strategy and Executive Officer to Australian Weeds Committee. John is currently the Chair of Tamar NRM's Weed Working Group.

Kathryn Pugh



Kathryn Pugh regularly attended meetings as Barry's proxy. Kathryn Pugh is an ecologist, currently employed at City of Launceston as Environmental Scientist. She is experienced in landscape water quality and aquatic habitat monitoring programmes, environmental impact assessments and threatened species management. Kathryn has a Bachelor of Science (Hons), majoring in Geography and Environmental Science, and Zoology and she is a Certified Environmental Practitioner.

Raoul Harper

Raoul Harper replaced James Ireland as the West Tamar Council representative on the Management Committee in January 2019. Raoul is a senior local government executive having previously served as the General Manager of both George Town and Flinders Council's and is the current Infrastructure Manager at the West Tamar Council. He has a keen interest in sustainable development and engaging with communities to improve natural resource outcomes.

Retired

Barry Pickett

Barry Pickett has since resigned from the City of Launceston. Barry has been an important link between Tamar NRM and the City of Launceston. He continually championed our cause and saw the valuable partnership the two organisations had and his advice and support were invaluable in developing projects. We would like to wish Barry the best of luck in his new endeavours.

James Ireland

James Ireland retired from West Tamar Council in January 2019 to head overseas. James' support of, and advice to, Tamar NRM, and link with West Tamar Council was instrumental in the success in a wide range of projects, particularly those relating to sustainable living. James had a key eye for detail as well as a good overarching vision of what could be achieved. Tamar NRM staff and Management Committee would like to thank him for all his efforts and wish him well in the future.

Table 1: Attendance at meetings during 2018-2019

Management Committee Member	Possible Meetings	Meetings Attended
Roger Tyshing	5	4
Anna Povey	5	2
Barry Pickett (or Kathryn Pugh)	5	3
Ben Hooper	5	3
Brigid Morrison	5	2
Brian Baxter	5	4
David Richardson	4	3
Greg Unwin	5	5
James Ireland	3	3
John Thorp	5	4
Raoul Harper	2	2

3. Our Staff

Gill Basnett, Program Co-ordinator



Gill started with Tamar NRM in August 2015, having moved from Western Australia. She took the long route to Tasmania from Canberra, having worked in the environmental conservation sector in ACT, NSW, WA and SA. Gill has a strong ecological background, particularly in wildlife assessment, fire ecology and biodiversity conservation on private property. She enjoys sharing her knowledge and passion for the environment with others.

Gill has a Bachelor of Science (Resource and Environmental Management) degree, Master of Environmental Science and a Master of Environmental Science - Research. Her speciality is in fire ecology with a keen interest in wildlife, particularly birds. Her Master's thesis was "developing models to predict the impacts of fuel reduction burning on habitat complexity, ground-dwelling mammals and understorey birds". She has worked for a range of both government and non-government organisations including NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Rural Fire Service, Australian Wildlife Conservancy, WA Department of Parks and Wildlife, SA Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Millennium Kids.

Greg Lundstrom, Program Co-ordinator



After working in conservation and natural resource management for 20 years, Greg feels that his role as Program Coordinator for Tamar NRM over the past three years has been a remarkably different experience, for all the right reasons.

Greg's background is in natural resources management and conservation. He has post graduate qualifications in those areas and more recently undertook study on climate change law and policy at the University of Tasmania in 2015. From 2012-2014, he project managed a climate change regional adaptation plan and multi-sector risk assessment for the River Murray's lower reaches and the troubled lower lakes.

Community engagement remains the key to on ground action and working for Tamar NRM, for Greg, provides the right conduit for that to happen. His time with Green Corps and then nine years with Natural Resources S.A. Murray-Darling Basin saw him working in a variety of landscapes such as coastal, wetland, riverine, drylands and urban with farmers and groups such as Landcare, Coastcare and Waterwatch.



Other Staff

Eric Hall (MLA Pastures Project Consultant)



Eric has a national reputation as a pasture expert in areas of plant collection, plant evaluation, plant breeding and pasture demonstration and extension. Eric has experience working with national research and extension programs, and has authored and co-authored numerous scientific papers, reports and fact sheets.

For 15 years, Eric worked as leader of TIA's Herbage Development Program. In this role he was instrumental in the design, establishment and running of over a dozen producer demonstration sites across Tasmania's lower rainfall region. This includes establishment of Tamar NRM demonstration sites at the properties "Greenhythe", "Nangara" and "Oakbank" in collaboration with Tamar NRM in 2010.

Despite retiring from full time employment four years ago, Eric has maintained a keen interest in pastures and continues to pursue plant breeding and pasture advisory activities.

Gabrielle Stannus, Sustainable Living Expo Coordinator



Gabrielle is an experienced environmental planner and educator and budding horticulturalist. After working on environmental policy and programs in local government for close to a decade, Gabrielle decided to make a "tree change" of sorts. Gabrielle obtained a Master of Urban Horticulture from the University of Melbourne, specialising in green roof and wall design. Gabrielle now balances life and work in Liffey with her partner, Ludovic. Together, they run Inwardout Studio, designing unique spaces for people to live and work in from the inside out. Gabrielle writes regularly for Hort Journal Australia and the Nursery and Garden Industry Australia (NGIA). She also coordinates environmental events including our very own Tamar Sustainable Living Expo.

4. Key Numbers

Table 2: Key numbers for Tamar NRM events and other works carried out in 2017-2018.

	No.	Participants	Engagement Hours	Amount (Granted)	No. Trees Planted
Workshops	14	564	1564		
Information Events	45	6019	3200		
Sustainable Living Expo	1	1080	2250		
Volunteer Events (Events and Meetings)	57	446	1562		
Plastic Free Launceston member volunteer hours at workshops	40	58	228		
School Events (School event days + Tree Planting Days)	13	798	1516		200
Education Day / Conference Events	8	2449	918		
Grants Applied For	11			\$145,519.00*	
Works Team Hours		11	408		
Total Events 2018-2019	174	11425	12059	\$145,519*	
Total Events 2017-2018 (Excluding Works Team)	110	8744	9987	\$283,978 **(\$101,244)	10314 (+25ha seeded)

* Still waiting to hear about the \$20,000 Landcare Tasmania Grant.

** Total grants received includes the MLA grant funding that was applied for in the 2016/17 financial year, but funding was not received until the 2017/18 financial year.

Table 3: Grants applied for by Tamar NRM in 2018-2019. (Rows highlighted in grey were not successful.)

Grant	Amount	Success	Comments
RACT Ragwort Raids	2,000.00	2,000.00	2019 Ragwort Raids
Planet Ark	750.00	750.00	Trees for biodiverse native shelterbelts
WTC Community Grant - Expo Bus	380.00	380.00	Expo bus from Beaconsfield to Town. Paid direct to Manions Couches
Bell Bay Aluminium	1,863.00	1,863.00	Critters in Creeks
MLA	25,000.00	25,000.00	Healthy Soils Discussion Groups
Smart Farms NLP 2 - Small Farm Project	48,000.00	48,000.00	Small Farm Roadmap - 6 workshops
Smart Farms NLP 2 - Climate Change	67,526.00	67,526.00	Carbon Neutral Farming
Perpetual	95,200.00	0.00	Millennium Kids
Smart Farms NLP 2 - Master TreeGrower	100,000.00	0.00	Master Tree Grower Program
Hydro Tasmania Community Grants	4,910.00	0.00	Catch it in the Catchment
Waiting on			
Tasmanian Landcare Project Bank	20,000.00		Millennium Kids Project
Total	\$355,629.00	\$145,519.00*	

*Still waiting to hear about the \$20,000 Landcare Tasmania Grant.

5. President's Report

It is a great pleasure, once again, to present my President's Report to the Tamar NRM family.

This is my sixth report and at the risk of appearing repetitive, we keep going from strength to strength. There are, of course, a number of fundamental reasons for this, based around the long standing community driven model adopted by Tamar NRM, early in its establishment, that with very little tweaking, has stood the test of time.

Last year I stated that it is clear that the Federal Government priorities in natural resource management are not the community's priorities and that this demonstrated how out of touch they are. I would like to highlight the fact that our three partner councils, City of Launceston, West Tamar and George Town, have again agreed to another three years of funding between 2018 and 2021. This support reflects the councils' commitment to NRM and the community and the work Tamar NRM does in the region and on behalf of the organisation I would like to thank them for their backing.

Tamar NRM is truly independent and we are absolutely committed to delivering on ground activities and works that genuinely reflect community priorities. Once again, this year, we allocated around 10% of our retained earnings to enable us to deliver the types of activities and workshops that the Tamar region community sees are important to them. Our retained earnings have been built up through small, project surpluses over the last 20 years and through careful management reached around \$200,000 in 2017. The Management Committee is of the view that publicly funded organisations should responsibly invest retained earnings back into the community through education, events, field days and workshops.

This financial year the Management Committee made the decision to underwrite, through our retained earnings, another Expo. So in October 2018, we held a Sustainable Living Expo at the Albert Hall. This Expo presented a wider theme to our 2017 Sustainable Energy Expo. Again, it was well attended by the public, had an excellent range of exhibitors and speakers and the feedback we received was enthusiastic.

Our working groups have, as usual been active throughout the year. During the year, Ian Sauer, the long-standing Chair of the George Town Coastal Community Management Group stepped down. Ian has, unsurprisingly, been a driving force behind the success of this working group. The Management Committee would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution Ian has made to this working group over the years. In saying that, I don't wish to diminish the role of the community members right along the northern coast, who volunteer their time to manage weeds, clean up around the foreshore, reduce fire hazards and work on tracks. We are pleased to have announced that Jason Orr took over the role of Chair of the working group. So, welcome Jason and thanks for stepping up to the plate.

Our weeds working group, chaired by John Thorp has continued to be active. Our annual Ragwort raids in January and early February, again attracted a number of new volunteers especially in the Launceston region. Our Boneseed Blitz in October last

year, although low key, is an ongoing and essential community event. John has spearheaded new opportunities, opening up for TNRM in weed management, as we are well known and respected for our on ground and effective weeds management work and that's because being a proactive organisation, we make stuff happen.

Our feral cat working group has been quiet during the year, not because we don't think it is important, in fact it's the exact opposite. However, we have had so much going on, we have just had to put some things on the back burner for the moment but I can assure you Tamar NRM will be far more active in the coming year on this issue.

Plastic Free Launceston, our other working group, on the other hand has been amazingly active running 76 events throughout the year. This included 40 Information Events run with PLF volunteers, including meetings and engagement opportunities with local businesses and councillors. Plastic Free Launceston also ran 10 Bag making workshops in the last 12 months. This group is ably chaired by Trish Hauseller, supported by an energetic and passionate committee and team of volunteers. They have made a tremendous impact in the last 12 months and we look forward to supporting and observing continuing positive behaviour changes within the community regarding plastic use in the Tamar region

Our Reference Group continues to remain strong and is a fabulous resource for our Program Coordinators and Management Committee. While we didn't hold a reference group function during the year, we have had input from members through our project advisory groups. So thank you to our reference group members new and old. We appreciate your input.

Tamar NRM continues to maintain a number of important and genuine partnerships with various local, statewide and national organisations delivering projects throughout the region. Of course, our most important partnerships are with our three funding Councils, City of Launceston, West Tamar Council and George Town Council. Our primary focus when considering any activity is whether it will add value to the respective Council's strategic objectives. Having said that, we are grateful that our three funding Councils are not prescriptive about what we do and they leave us to get on with the job.

The majority of our project work this year has been in the agricultural space. We were fortunate in obtaining funding from Meat and Livestock Australia to continue our series of field days around improving pasture composition, persistence and productivity and we were also successful in attracting National Landcare Program second round funding for some projects.

On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to thank our amazing Program Coordinators, Gill Basnett and Greg Lundstrom for their tremendous enthusiasm and sustained effort throughout the year. Also, thank you to our occasional project officers who, during this time, have assisted in making the year such a success and of course all those volunteers who have contributed to an event whether it be manning the doors at the Expo, pulling ragwort or other weeds in the Tamar region or encouraging and assisting others to reduce their use of plastics, who have all contributed to ensuring

the region is an attractive and prosperous place to live and work based on a healthy environment.

Last but not least, as we do every year, I am pleased to report on our engagement and volunteer hours. The accompanying graph shows that, not including the Expos, we've increased our engagement and volunteer hours over all, for the fifth straight year in a row to nearly 3.5 times the long term average prior to the 2013/14 year. A significant contribution to the increasing hours is from Plastic Free Launceston which, I believe, indicates its relevance to the community and the commitment of its volunteers. On the other side of the coin there has been a slight drop off of volunteer hours since last year but we are not worried about that given that last year was also a record number for volunteer hours.

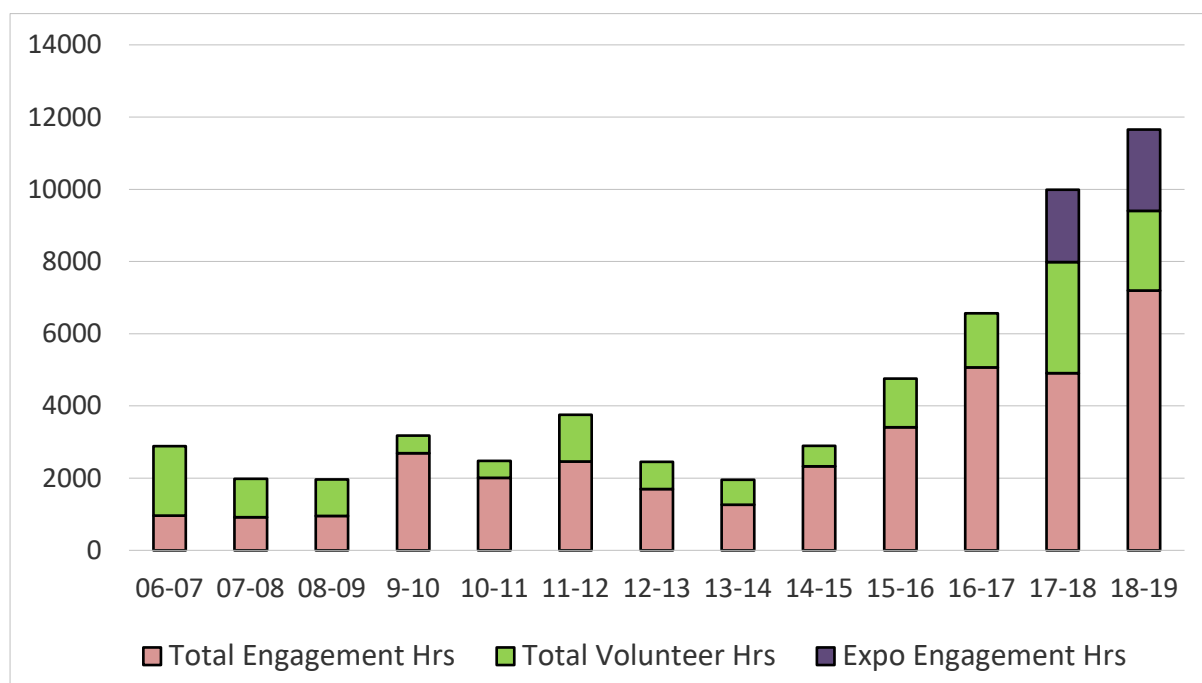


Figure 1. Tamar NRM engagement and volunteer hours per year

Engagement Hours

Events held that involve learning, education or pass on knowledge, for instance forums, workshops, training days and field days such as: Pasture field days, Master TreeGrowers, Backyards to Broadacres, fire management workshops, Expos.

Volunteer Hours

Events held that involve community members contributing their time and or resources for the benefit of the community, for instance: Ragwort Raids, Boneseed Blitz, School tree days, bag making workshops, Working Group meetings, MC meetings, Reference Group meetings and Tamar NRM volunteers exhibiting/presenting at events.

Roger Tyshing

Tamar NRM President

6. Program Coordinators' Report

Greg Lundstrom & Gill Basnett.

A big year again for staff with the high profile Sustainable Living Expo taking considerable staff time and energy (hopefully renewable) to pull off such a large event for an organisation with two permanent staff. It would not have been possible without Gabrielle Stannus undertaking the key role of co-ordinator of the event. Another standout for staff over the 2018-19 year was that we improved our strike rate with grant successes. During the previous year we wrote as many grant applications but the competitive over-subscribed grant rounds meant we had limited success. This year was different, although we secured similar funding amounts, we were successful with more of our applications. Our three supporting councils recommitted to funding Tamar NRM for another three years, which allowed both our contracts to be renewed year for another three year term. We thank the councils for their ongoing support of the organisation and the Tamar NRM Management Committee for the faith they have in us, and the backing they have provided to enable us to "make stuff happen".

In our view, Tamar NRM remains a responsive organisation unlike any other. The community requests keep coming in as they know we will do our utmost to assist on-ground action to happen, or at the very least, put them in touch with someone who can.

Over the past year we have run a number of projects, mostly in partnership with community groups and schools, councils, UTAS, government agencies, not-for-profit organisations and industry. We have seen the Green Army project finish which has been a blow as having a dedicated team of hard working people to send out to assist with on-ground works saw a lot of valuable projects either started, assisted or completed. We are hoping that another opportunity arises for a works team into the future. In the meantime we will work in partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia as much as we can. Our 20 million trees project continues to have a life, with surplus funds agreed to be used by Tamar NRM to plant trees in the region. No seedlings were planted in the 2018-19 financial year with this project as agreements were not signed in time. We will resume tree planting again in September 2019. The agricultural area is one that did well in funding with another Meat and Livestock Australia project on healthy soil awarded and two National Landcare Project Small Grants round awarded together boosting funding to sustainable farming by over \$125,000. Continued lobbying for more funding to deal with weeds culminated in the state government committing to establishing a weeds action fund. We also remain active lobbying for feral and at large cat control through the Cat Management Act.

We are pleased to report that activities this year have been delivered in a safe and accident free manner. Only two incidents reported of a minor nature and no personal injuries. Our work health and safety (whs) processes are regularly updated and risks assessments undertaken with 25 tool box/whs meetings held to ensure staff, volunteers and the general public are kept safe.

We have relished the support we have received from our three partner councils: City of Launceston, West Tamar and George Town. Staff and elected members know who we are and we aim to keep our program actively relevant by aligning projects with council strategies and plans. This year we have continued to work in partnership with Landcare Tasmania and local Landcare groups; Schools and friends Groups; Tasmania Fire Service; Tasmania Parks and Wildlife, DPIPW and Biosecurity Tasmania; Australian Agro-forestry Network; NRM North; TIA; and new relationships built with Australian Microplastic Assessment Project (AUSMAP).

The Sustainable Living Expo saw us working in 12 partners and 33 exhibitors and presenters. Along with local businesses we worked with many other groups such as Alternative Technology Australia, Sustainable Living Tasmania, Australian Electric Vehicle Association, Permaculture Tasmania, Landcare Tasmania, Tamar Bike Users Group, NRM North, Plastic Free Launceston, Tasmanian Organic-Dynamic Producers, Sustainable House Day and University of Tasmania. It was a great example of partnerships and how everyone pulling together can make a successful event. We look forward to the next one in 2020.

These organisations and many people, too numerous to thank individually, have generously donated their time, their expertise and goods and services to our projects. We thank them all for helping us help the Tamar Valley community.

Looking forward to the 2019-20 year.

Greg and Gill



7. Overview of Tamar NRM Projects

Tamar NRM has undertaken quite a few workshops, field days and information events as well as project planning with Working Groups, community members and groups, councils and other partners over the last year. We have continued with long term community projects such as the Ragwort Raid and Boneseed Blitz and partnerships such as with Landcare Tasmania and NRM North. Affiliations with schools, community groups, Tasmania Fire Service, Parks and Wildlife, and DPIPW more broadly were renewed or extended with the exchange of ideas and collaboration on possible future projects.

The following sections outline in more detail some of the projects that have been focused on over the last year, but some of the key events we undertook include:

- The inaugural Sustainable Living Expo;
- Hosting Costa Georgiadis again for a range of events leading up to the Expo;
- Over \$145,000 in funding grants, primarily in the agricultural space.
- Delivering two agriculturally focussed projects - Tamar Valley Pastures Improvement Producer Demonstration Sites project (half way through its 3 year life) and the Healthy Soils Discussion Group project.
- Presentations and stalls at a range of agricultural focused conferences in Tasmania and mainland Australia.
- Burning to Plan fire management planning workshops for private property with Tasmania Fire Service;;
- Biodiversity surveys in council reserves with City of Launceston and QVMAG;
- Continuing long standing weed management programs such as Ragwort Raid and Serrated Tussock control; and
- Education days - World Wetland Day, Big Day of Science, Clean up Australia Day, World Environment Day and the Kids for Kids Conference.



7.1. Sustainable Living Expo (Sustainable Living Working Group)

The inaugural Tamar Sustainable Living Expo (Expo) run in October 2018 was designed to build on the success of Tamar NRM's 2017 Sustainable Energy Expo and meet some of the community's desire, received from feedback, to gain more information to help them live more sustainably. Adopting sustainable living options provides positive benefits to the environment, human health, household and business budgets and long-term energy certainty and security. Tamar NRM wanted to provide a venue in northern Tasmania to create opportunities to foster direct interaction between exhibitors and participants where businesses, not-for-profit organisations and community groups could showcase products and services that are leading the way in sustainable living.

To help with the workload, Tamar NRM contracted Gabrielle Stannus from Inwardout Studio to act as the Expo Coordinator. Gabby undertook the mammoth task of pulling together a packed program of exhibitors and presenters for the main event at Albert Hall along with some interesting satellite events around the Tamar.

The Sustainable Energy Expo attracted 33 Exhibitors inside the hall, the carpark with the Australian Electric Vehicles Association, and City Parks where a Growdome was set up for workshops. Although there was still space in the hall for more exhibitors, a wide range of businesses and not-for-profit organisations covered many aspects of sustainable energy generation, energy efficient building design, gardening, alternative transport, insulation, waste management and more.



Along with exhibitors, over 30 speakers provided information during 24 workshop and presentations throughout the day in the three upstairs rooms and out in the Growdome and park. Topics included solar power, securing a stable climate, healthy soils, sustainable and healthy housing, your climate leaders, electric vehicles, alternatives to petrol/diesel, living healthy, condensation, and so much more.

Approximately 1,100 people attended the Expo. There would have been people who just looked at the electric vehicles and workshops in the Growdome in City Park that would not have been counted. There were also more than 500 people who attended Tamar Sustainable Living Expo Satellite events throughout the Tamar: Beaconsfield Sustainable Living Market, Composting with Costa at Ravenswood Community Garden and Northern Suburbs Neighbourhood House, Food Fighter screening, getting dirty with Costa at Beaconsfield and garden tours.



We are sincerely grateful for the support of **Mode Electrical, University of Tasmania, City of Launceston** who were our Gold sponsors, Silver Sponsors **TasWater** and **Home Efficiency Group**, Bronze Sponsors **EPA Tasmania, Foot and Playsted, Sustainable Living Tasmania, George Town Council, West Tamar Council** along with **ABC Northern Tasmania** our Media Partner and **Harvest Market Launceston** a Venue Partner. Thank you also to the 18 amazing volunteers who helped make the day run without a glitch. Finally a big thank you to Gabby and her partner Ludo from Inwardout Studio for all their hard work on this project, the day was the success it was because of your passion and drive. Cheers to a job well done.



7.2. Ragwort Raid



January 2019 was the 20th year the Tamar Region Ragwort Raid has been held. As in past years, community groups, Landcare groups, volunteer fire brigades, landholders and the general public joining together to keep Ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*) at bay. Volunteers travelled a total of 980.1 kms of roads around the Tamar Valley in their own vehicles and at their own expense, contributing 255 hours of volunteer time over four days. Council roads travelled totalled 526.9 km; State Growth (DIER) roads 362.6 km; and other land tenures 90.6 km. Table 4 below clearly indicates the volunteer effort that went into the 2019 "Raid".

New areas such as Mount Barrow Discovery Trail were added this year with Ragwort found on Sustainable Timber Tasmania controlled land. Forming collaborations with multiple land tenures and land managers and taking an integrated approach to weed management in Tamar Valley contributes to the success of our Raids.

One only needs to travel out of the Tamar over January and you start to notice ragwort's prevalence in neighbouring councils. There are a surprisingly large number of residents in the Tamar that target Ragwort. These people often start as Raid participants or are inspired through our public weeds education program. We acknowledge and thank the contribution of community groups and landholders who control Ragwort on an ongoing basis.

The necessary follow up and attention by agencies/councils of landholder compliance on private lands, remains an issue and needs to be better coordinated and policed, however collectively the compliance measures, public education, establishment of ragwort biocontrol agents and the Ragwort Raids combine to be an effective model that other regions should pick up and implement.

Thanks to the 2019 Ragwort Raiders and this year's participating groups: West Tamar, East Tamar and Lilydale Landcare groups, Launceston Field Naturalists, Friends of Punchbowl, Friends of Trevallyn Reserve, Piper's Brook, Piper's River and Hillwood Fire Brigades, and RACT staff.

During this year's "Raid" volunteer support was strong as community volunteers pitched in to help. The West Tamar and Launceston raids had 22 (each) and 9 at East Tamar. Numbers were lower this year at East Tamar due to volunteer fire brigade members being involved in fighting the summer fires.

With 50+ volunteers willing to provide their own time to attend the "Raids", Tamar NRM will happily continue to facilitate this annual event.

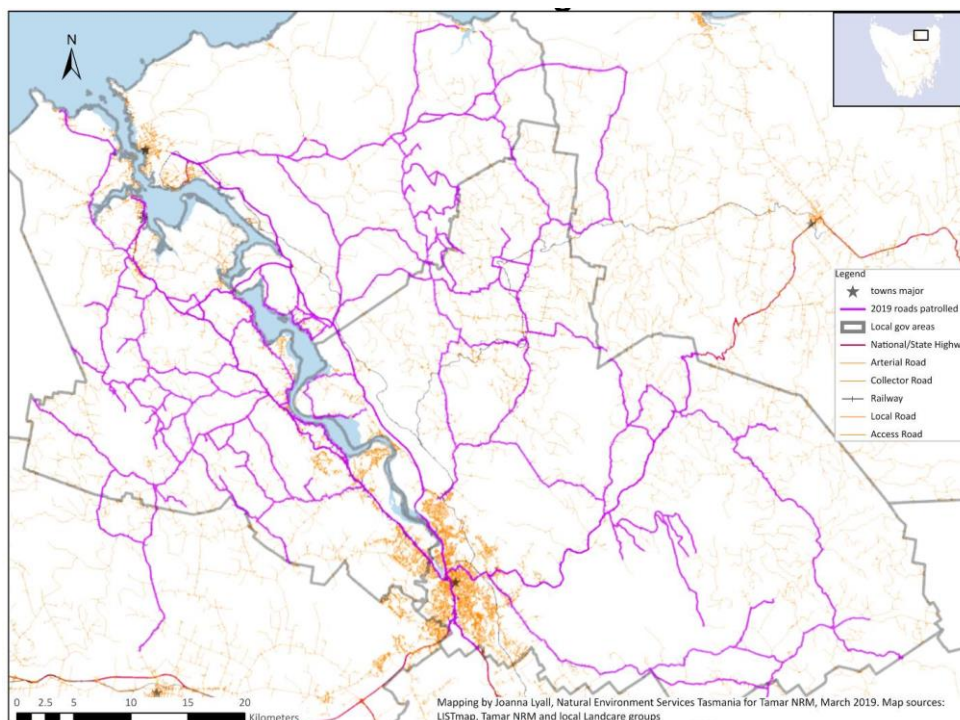


Figure 2. Map produced by Nest Natural Environmental Services, showing significant roads patrolled for Ragwort, other minor roads were also patrolled, but not marked.

Table 4: Tamar NRM 2019 Ragwort Raid statistics.

Municipal Area	Patrol Base Location	Number Volunteers	Hours Donated	Length of Significant Roads Patrolled	Bags Collected	Land Under Invasion Threat (Ha)
Georgetown (2 nd February)	Pipers River Fire Station	9	45	215.0 km	5	17000
West Tamar (3 rd February)	Winkleigh Hall	22	110	281.7 km	9	15600
Launceston (6 th February)	Waverley Lakes	22	110	416.3 km	28	32000
Dorset, Meander Valley, Northern Midlands Councils				67.0 km		
Totals for all councils		51	255	980.1km	42	64600



The Ragwort Raid Report is on Tamar NRM's website under "Reports". The event is underwritten by City of Launceston, West Tamar and George Town Councils, with specific funds provided again this year by the Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania (RACT).

7.3. Agriculturally Focussed Projects

Sustainable farming project activity continues to be well supported across the Tamar Valley through our field days and project activity, all featuring partnerships with professionals and other organisations working in the agricultural sector.

The end of June 2019, saw Tamar NRM delivering four agriculturally focussed projects, in addition to work we do with weeds and feral cats. Two Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) funded projects are underway, namely the Tamar Valley Pastures Improvement Producer Demonstration Sites project (half way through its 3 year life) and the Healthy Soils Discussion Group project. The Tamar Valley is one of eleven soils discussion groups supported through MLA funding, across New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. We acknowledge the support of MLA and their commitment to improving farm outcomes financially, environmentally and socially.

In June 2019, two new ag-focussed projects were funded through the National Landcare program Small Grants Program. Project funding of \$67,562 and \$42,900 for Carbon Neutral Farming and Small Farm Roadmap projects positions Tamar NRM as an important player in northern Tasmania delivering the much needed extension services to farmers. The two projects will commence in spring 2019.

Over the past year the role out of the Tamar Valley Pasture Improvement Technical Group has become increasingly important in ensuring the information we deliver is relevant to the farming community and sustainably focused. We thank the group for taking the time to provide input. Thank you Ian Sauer for your visionary guidance and wisdom as chair of the group.

Members:

Farmer/Fire/Community	Ian Sauer (Chair)	Pipers River
Farmer/TFGA Tamar Valley	Ben Hooper	Beaconsfield
Farmer/Forester	Ian Dickenson	Blessington
Farmer/Longford Red Meat Trial	Ed Archer	Hillwood
Soils	DPIPWE rep.	Northern Tasmania
Biosecurity	Paul Nilon	Perth
Pastures	Eric Hall	Pastures Consultant
Pastures	Rowan Smith	TIA
Tamar NRM	Greg Lundstrom	NRM & group facilitator

A variety of topics discussed at field days this year included pastures at Beaconsfield and the Cressy Research Station facility. Thanks to the landholders involved, Ben and Louisa Hooper, Upper Murray Seeds, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA), DPIPWE, Agvita Analytical, Ian Dickenson and Ed Archer.

Tamar NRM also had a presence at the Exeter Show in February, Regenerative Agriculture conference in June and at the International Farm Management Association Congress in March. The international 5-day Congress featured leading experts from around the world speaking about the global demand for agricultural products, and the capacity needed to meet that demand. Tamar NRM was involved assisting with the North East Tasmanian bus trip North East – on the theme diversification and tourism

(management of native and plantation forests in Tasmania, successful cropping and grazing business, and winery producing cool-climate wine). Greg helped out as a facilitator at a round table discussion and delivered a paper entitled "Toward a better natural resource management delivery model with a greater emphasis on the farming sector - The Tamar Valley Experience" promoting the Tamar NRM model.

Recognition of our role assisting agriculture also came with invitations to present at two other high profile events. We were approached by MLA to present at the Grasslands Society of Southern Australia Annual Conference (Creswick Victoria- 16-18 July 2019), on the topic of our pastures demonstration project. Ian Dickenson agreed to provide an on-ground perspective, and will be attending on our behalf. The opportunity of presenting at Red Meats Updates in July has also been accepted, with Ben Hooper willing to undertake the presenter's role. Thank you Ian and Ben and to Ed Archer for liaison with Red Meats Update for us.



Interacting at these functions and events is a great way to share our resources, talk one on one with farmers and gain expressions of interest to boost our own field day attendance. At Exeter and at the Regen Conference stalls this year we had an excellent plant nutrient deficiency resource produced by our consultant agronomist Eric Hall. Eric's extensive research experience in Tasmania is clear when you read the fact sheet available off our website under the "Reports" tab.

Monitoring and Evaluation remains important not only to showcase the ag projects' relevance to our funders, but also to apply adaptive management to our projects. Greg has commenced case studies and narratives with six producers as part of project monitoring to demonstrate implementation of pasture improvement practices. A similar "over the fence learning" exercise is happening within our soil health projects. The willingness of farmers to share their wins and losses in a candid manner never ceases to amaze me. This is how we can learn from the experiences of others without having to experience the pain.

2019-20 year promises to be a bright one with project planning underway for the two new NLP2 projects. Expressions of interest continue to be sought from both participating farms and interested landholders. Carbon Neutral Farming in a Northern Tasmanian Context is a project aims to show that Tasmanian farmers have a greater

opportunity than most mainland states to become carbon neutral and as a consequence their farming enterprises benefit by gaining a market edge. Our goal is to provide whole farm Greenhouse Gas (GHG) accounting at 5 farms around the Tamar Valley showing the multiple benefits of adopting adaptation and mitigations measures including on-farm carbon storage, GHG emission reductions from on-farm recycling, pasture and livestock management, conservation tillage, converting to solar energy, cogeneration, and offsets through forestry and/or native vegetation. The project will culminate with a carbon forum showcasing best practice to an observer group of producers. The project findings will be synthesised into resource utilisation opportunities for farmers.

The Small Farm Roadmap project is a continuation of the "Backyards to Broadacres" Workshop series, which saw the participation of 190 Tamar Valley producers over 2016-17. This new small farm project will continue to providing regionally relevant farming information across the Tamar Valley building producer capacity to be profitable and sustainable. By attending the six interconnected farm field days, small to medium size farming enterprises will gain an understanding of: Tamar Valley soils and land capability; what makes an up-to-date sustainably focussed farm plan; "over the fence" learning; transitioning to new and profitable enterprises; biodiversity values and practical solutions of living with nature; and the marketplace and opportunities for Tamar Valley producers.

We are in discussion with a number of people exploring collaborations on sustainable agricultural projects for current and future projects. There are many innovative practices that when implemented fully produce great sustainable farming outcomes. We will continue to promote these through our project delivery. Better pastures and soil health were a feature of field days held this year.



7.4. Fire and Biodiversity

Tamar NRM received a \$28,700 grant from the Australian Government and Administered by the Tasmanian State Government for the Tamar Community Fire Resilience Project. The aim is to increase people's understanding of the role of fire in many Tasmanian environments and to increase their capacity to manage for fire on their own properties. Information and planning workshops and biodiversity surveys are to be run as part of the project. It was a project that Tamar NRM took on as Gill Basnett is a fire ecologist and has a background in delivering fire management planning information and workshops.

This year Tamar NRM, in partnership with Tasmania Fire Service's (TFS), Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods and Tasmanian Land Conservancy ran the second Burning to Plan workshop which helped landowners of 21 properties, mostly with land for wildlife and conservation covenants, develop fire management plans for their own property with a focus on hazard reduction and ecological health.

TFS, Tasmanian Land Conservancy and Tamar NRM experts were on hand to answer individual landholder questions. Participants were keen to get as much information about regional fire management and how they can manage their own properties with respect to fire as they can. Making sure there were lots of "experts" on hand at each workshop meant many people's questions could be answered. Information included fire and ecological health, risk reduction in the landscape, property protection, legal requirements, and things to think about before lighting up. Feedback from all the workshops has been overwhelmingly positive.



An actual burning field day, to help Burning to Plan participants get hands on experience with safely lighting, controlling and extinguishing fires, was planned for September/October which has been postponed to spring 2019. Funding for this project was through a grant from the Federal Government administered by the State Government. Tamar NRM is looking for further funding for the project.

A Bushfire Property Assessment Field Day was run in Beechford in September with 17 residents learning about the potential risks of fire to their community and how to prepare their houses for the up and coming fire season.



Tamar NRM's Gill Basnett has also been involved in various discussions organised by TFS and State Fire Management Council on how to further develop and fund Burning to Plan/Red Hot Tip's style workshops with private landholders and University of Tasmania on their plans to establish a UTAS Bushfire Research Hub.

7.5. Education Programs

As usual, we have been involved in events organised by others such as the Department of Education's Kids for Kids day (over 60 students); World Wetland Day at Tamar Wetlands (600 people); Big Day of Science at QVMAG (1100 people), and the Climate Change Symposium (80 students) and Climate Youth Leaders Conference (80 students) organised by Greening Australia. We like to support these larger events as they are a great way to engage with the community and we want to help make them the success they are. We would like to acknowledge and thank all the event organisers and volunteers for everything they do, as it is their hard work and commitment that makes these events a success and provide the community with a wide range of opportunities in the Tamar and it is why we commit to undertaking them each year.



This year we organised John Gooderham to come up from Hobart and undertake a Waterbug Blitz training session as we would like to reinvigorate Waterwatch monitoring in the Tamar. Over 20 people came along to the information and training sessions and more signed up as interested in being involved in waterbug monitoring



During the year we also discussed the creation of nature space, biodiversity and habitat restoration with a number of schools including: Riverside Primary, Deloraine High and West Launceston Primary. It is fantastic to see students engaging with their native plants and animals and the teachers supporting their explorations. We look forward to seeing how these spaces progress as the years goes on.



7.6. Christopher Strong Sustainability Grant

Kathryn Pugh was the recipient of the Christopher Strong Sustainability Grant this year, being awarded \$1,500 for the "*Litoria raniformis* in Launceston's urban wetlands" project.

"Up until the 1970s, the Launceston region had a robust population of *Litoria raniformis* in the extensive wetlands on the floodplains. Recent developments, such as infilling, highway construction and drainage have significantly altered or destroyed important breeding sites for the species to the point that the frog may now be functionally extinct within the greater Launceston urban area. A recent Facebook post received location information for the species from more than 20 sites within the Tamar Valley region, two of which were within Launceston's urban areas that were novel sites for the Natural Values Atlas (NVA): West Tamar Walking Trail and Invermay. There is only a single NVA record for *L. raniformis* on the entire North Esk River floodplains; this record is almost 30 years old, and there were no Facebook reports from this area. Without recent, verified sightings on the NVA, application of the Launceston Interim Planning Scheme's Biodiversity Code is very difficult. Information collected during this project will feed into planning for habitat protection and identify sites for potential restoration projects.

This project will build on work currently being undertaken by a 3rd year university student, Lilian Stewart, and supported by Simon Fearn from QVMAG and myself, to understand the historical and current distribution of wetlands within Launceston and the potential impact on the local amphibian metapopulation. The intent of the proposed project supported by the Christopher Strong Sustainability Grant that will be undertaken by me is to verify known locations of *L. raniformis* in Launceston, identify unknown sites for the species (I hope) and to identify sites that require habitat protection or that are suitable for habitat restoration. Habitat that supports amphibians will have flow-on benefits for other local wetland flora and fauna, including wetland birds and threatened aquatic/riparian flora, and provide recreational and community health benefits for the people of Launceston."

Kathryn's findings will be written up in a Naturally Yours Newsletter in 2019-20 as well as a short report on our website so keep your eyes out for that.

8. Working Groups

8.1. George Town Coastal Management Group

Chairperson – Jason Orr

The George Town Coastal Community Management Group (GTCMG) has continued to work hard during the last 12 months. I would like to acknowledge the commitment and work undertaken by our outgoing Chairperson, Ian Sauer, from whom I took over as Chairperson on 4 April 2019. Ian played a central role in the development and establishment of the George Town Coastal Management Plan. The plan is a community driven, non-statutory document that aims to preserve the natural values of the George Town coastal region by addressing management issues in a coordinated and systematic manner.

Coastal Community Highlights since June last year

Coasting in February – this event was held on 24 Feb 2019 and involved visits to a number of coastal locations including a walk at the Low Head Penguin rookery, Beechford footbridge and lunch at Weymouth. A number of keynote speakers provided information across a range of subjects which included Dr Vishnu Prahalad who has worked on saltmarsh ecology and management for over 10 years.

Tamar Valley Weeds and their Impact – this presentation was provided by Tamar NRM's Greg Lundstrom at a GTCMG meeting on 4 April 2019 at Hillwood. The presentation highlighted the threat posed to casual and estuarine environments to a variety of invasive weeds and was followed by a walking excursion to Egg Island Point.

Boneseed Blitz – this annual event was held on 20 Sept 2018 and is now in its 13th year. This year's blitz contained many elements which supported the objective of preventing Boneseed from establishing a major foothold in the region. The distribution of this invasive woody weed, within the Tamar region, is largely concentrated along the coastal and estuarine strip. There is the potential for Boneseed to become widespread across the entire Tamar region if left untouched. This year's Blitz Day involved 2 hours in each of the three Tamar municipalities.

Local Community updates since June last year

Each of the participating coastal communities work independently on their actions as outlined in the plan.

- Bellingham Progress Association holds monthly working bees. The group maintains several walking tracks and their local Recreation Ground, as well as, mowing and general upkeep of the foreshore area.
- Weymouth Progress Association set up the Pipers River Erosion Taskforce as a sub-group in November 2017. In October 2018 a community project designed to stabilise a stretch of riverbank, in the wake of the 2016 floods, was completed by the taskforce. Weymouth are now working on a foreshore project which will include developing a plan with walking tracks and the planting of 300-400 native plants they have successfully propagated.
- Lulworth Community Association have actively worked on eradication of sea spurge with the beach now 90% free of the invasive weed. This does require

ongoing maintenance to ensure the weed is eradicated. As a result of identifying an infestation of Asparagus fern in the area, the group's attention will now turn to managing that weed.

- Hillwood Progress Association have completed weed mapping of Spanish Heath and Boneseed.
- The Friends of Low Head Penguin Group are a newly formed committee and member of Wildcare who have become involved with GTCMG to provide advice and assist with monitoring and weed control in the Low Head area. The group are currently in the process of conducting a population survey in order to get a baseline figure on numbers in the colony. The group also aim to build awareness in respect to the penguin colony within the wider community.
- Low Head Progress and Heritage Association – the group continue to work on protection and preservation of the Low Head area including management and maintenance of the Low Head peninsula land owned by the Low Head Company.
- Beechford Residents & Property Owners Association – the group celebrated the official opening of their Community Hub at Easter 2019. The hub is a great meeting place to build and enhance community engagement. The association has been working on revegetation of the area, fencing and rubbish removal.

The work undertaken by the GTCMG is made possible due to the vision and support of Tamar NRM. They are pivotal in terms of the provision of resources and funding that facilitates continued implementation of our strategic plan. The local community groups undertake individual activities and invest in their own “patch”. However, the establishment of strong working partnerships and fostering of sustainable relationships continues to grow. The time and effort that is invested by all our members, who work tirelessly to improve our coastal communities, is acknowledged and much appreciated.

Planned activities for the coming year include the first of four coastal walks which will kick off in November with the “Triple Bluff Walk”. Work is also being undertaken in respect to replacement of the “Whose beach is it?” signage. These signs promote learning in respect to sharing our beaches with birds in order to maintain important breeding areas and reversing the decline of some threatened species. I look forward to what the next 12 months brings for the GTCMG and working towards achievement of our goals.



8.2. Weeds Working Group

Chairperson - John Thorp



This year, we supported and ran various weed specific projects and continued with our annual signature events, Boneseed Blitz in September, Ragwort Raid in January. Our Tamar Weeds Strategy model is one that works, but it does rely on gaining external funding which has been extremely limited over the year, with very few grant opportunities available. We still undertake our signature events the Ragwort Raids and Boneseed Blitz. The Weeds Working Group has been active over the year with extensive work being undertaken with limited funds. Full reports of events can be found on the TNRM's web site under the reports section.

External Funding

We met with Ministers Courtney and Barnett (separate occasions) to seek more cooperation with the department and to give TNRM's views on our preferred model for weed funding delivery for on ground works. Our approach was well received and the announcement of the Weed Action Fund aligned with our views.

The opportunities for external funding have been limited except for a few small grants but in May the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment announced the Weeds Action Fund. A total of \$5 million over 5 years for strategic weed management. With an initial round of small grants followed by applications for larger projects.

TNRM intends to submit four applications, all being strategic multi-year projects targeting priority weeds. As expected they will have a big community capacity building aspect and likely to support biological weed management.

Ragwort Raid

The annual Ragwort Raids were undertaken as three events in the east, west and Nunamara areas with approximately 980 km of roads covered by 260 volunteer hours. The amount of ragwort collected was again reduced to a small ute load in each area, with Nunamara - Blessington still showing significant infestations on private land. However the overall reduction in infested areas over the 16 years of the raids is testament to their effectiveness. Consideration has been given to the need for their continuation and we concluded that they still play an active role in containing the weed. Should we obtain funding for biological control, agents will be released in hot spot areas. A special thanks to Jayne Shapter, who retired as coordinator of the raid after 16 years of dedicated work.

The Ragwort Raids were supported by a grant from the RACT which was greatly appreciated. (See Ragwort Raid item under 7.2 above).

Boneseed Blitz

Over the months of September and October 2018, Tamar NRM and its partners staged the annual Boneseed Blitz. This event organised by Tamar NRM, is in its thirteenth year and was supported by the Launceston City Council, West Tamar Council, George Town Council, Department of Primary Industry, Water and Environment, Parks and Wildlife Service, State Growth and various community and Landcare groups. This year's Blitz contained many elements which supported the objective of preventing Boneseed from establishing a major foothold in the region. Actions included:

- Continued with awareness raising activities (focus was Boneseed on private land);
- Worked with agencies and councils toward shared responsibility;
- Obtained the necessary agency approvals to access lands and transport Boneseed;
- Sourced latest Boneseed mapping and recorded reported sightings;
- Revisited 2017 treatment sites;
- Documented and reported private land infestations to compliance organisations;
- Promoted community group weed working bee days;
- Supplied "Dabbers" for cut and paint treatment (cut stump);
- Helped with plant identification and weed treatment information;;
- Undertook risk assessment and safety briefings for volunteers; and
- Took an integrated weed management approach consistent with Tamar Valley Weed Management Strategy.

We continue to work with coastal groups on boneseed, polygala, sea spurge and other coastal weed issues and provide support to volunteers.

Invasive Grasses and Other Species

The Serrated Tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*) on the East Tamar continues to be controlled and monitored with the cooperation of landholders. We are acutely aware that the weed may be present in other parts of the region and have applied for funding to attack the problem.

Paterson's Curse biological control agents have established in an infestation at Waverly from previous releases and form a core location from where agents may be collected in the future.

A number of surveys have been undertaken, particularly in the Greens Beach area with a view to empowering community groups to take action.

I wish to thank all our community volunteers who undertake weed control and participate in our events ably coordinated by Greg and Gill. Whilst I wish we could remove all weeds we know that this is impractical and we follow a strategic plan which gains the most for the region with available resources.



2 years on: Beaconsfield Boneseed site weeded by BOAGS 2017

8.3. Plastic Free Launceston

Chairperson - Trish Haeusler

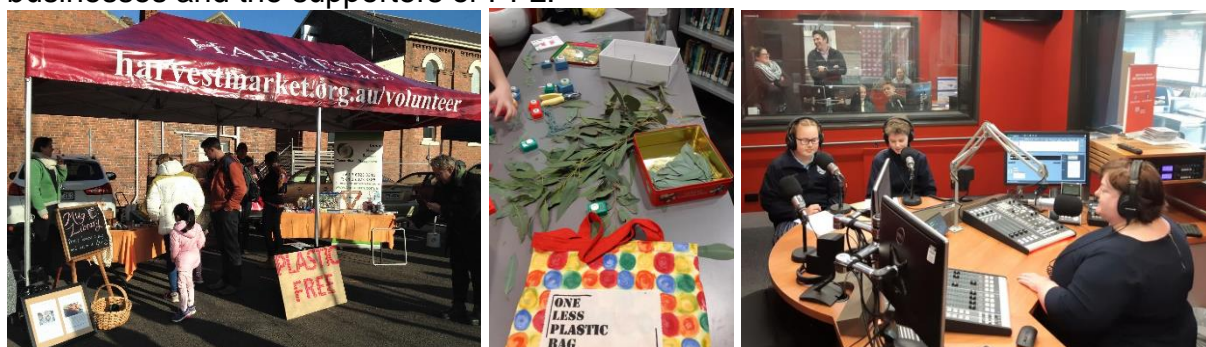
It is with great pleasure that Plastic Free Launceston (PFL) delivers its second contribution to the Tamar NRM annual report. The last 12 months have seen a noticeable increase in community conversations about issues relating to plastic pollution and its environmental impacts. This is largely due to the growing awareness of the problem, which is partially reflected by an increase in the number of people who are supporting PFL (1,813 Facebook followers and over 150 on our mailing list). We have also experienced a growing number of invitations we have accepted, and continue to receive, to attend events and deliver presentations.

In the local community, we have also witnessed an increase in the number of groups, schools and small local businesses doing their bit to reduce plastic waste. As much as we would like to take credit for all this change, we acknowledge that the media's contribution to this issue has also greatly helped to inform people about the plastic pollution issues. Programs such as Landline - Plastic in agriculture <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=486862542124299>, the ABC's War on Waste, numerous talk back discussions on local radio about plastic pollution, as well as the screenings of films such as - Blue The Movie and Rubber Jellyfish have all highlighted the growing concerns of plastic pollution in marine environments.

Social Media has also proved to be a very active platform, and this year we have made contact with Plastic Free South East Asia, Plastic Free Coromandel in NZ (visited representatives of this group on a visit there earlier in the year , Plastic Free Hong Kong as well as Plastic Free Hartelpool in the UK. Believe it or not, we came across another PFL! This being in the UK. A lot of great discussion and sharing of ideas with these groups worldwide.

With this growing public awareness, the PFL working group believes we are at a timely and important stage to remain motivated and continue, even expand, our community-based actions and activities.

'Plastic Free July' has again been a focal point for our actions and, with last year's launch, we were able to attract a range of media attention to help us promote this now global campaign. With the assistance from the TAFE Drysdale catering classes and their trainers, who provided a magnificent morning tea, and the wonderful master of ceremonies role carried out by Chanel 7's Jo Palmer, a successful launch to the start of Plastic Free July was enjoyed by representatives from our local schools, Council, businesses and the supporters of PFL.



During Plastic Free July 2018, the working group delivered information stalls at Harvest Market each Saturday during July as well as at Launceston Library. A highlight was the broadcasting on ABC radio of plastic free tips by local school children. We were thrilled to later hear that these tips were picked up on other Australia wide regional ABC stations.

The PFL working group has attended many local events during the last 12 months with our displays. These have included the Beaconsfield Neighbourhood House market day, UTAS market day, The Tamar Peace festival and the Behind Closed Drawers market. We delivered workshops and presentations to groups such as the Steminists, MOPS - mother's group, and local primary and secondary schools.

The Sustainably Expo 2018 allowed us to present our biggest display to date. The PFL display focused on what is known about the plastic pollution problems and provided some practical tips to help reduce single use and unnecessary plastics. It was also a great opportunity to promote local businesses such as Wholesome House, The Grain Grocer, The Organic Grocer and Eumarrah by displaying some of the plastic free alternatives and refill services they provide.



With a strong focus on community Education, PFL hosted Anthony Hill from Plastic Pollution solutions earlier this year. Anthony has built up a successful reputation Australia wide for his delivery of school and community-based workshops. It was quite a treat to see him in action and impressive to witness his ability to adapt a presentation to suit the age group. Anthony had prep students singing and dancing like crabs on the beach, upper primary students taking the plastic ninja warriors pledge and secondary students and adults at the train the trainer course being challenged philosophically about attitudes to waste and its impact on the very systems that support life on planet earth.



Finally, the work of the PFL was recognised by being presented with a WasteNOT award in 2018. This award was a pat on the back for the working group and other volunteers who have helped us.

I believe our community education has been effective both via our active social media and the events and workshops we have and continue to deliver. With the continued and much appreciated support from Tamar NRM, the working group looks forward to another busy twelve months.